

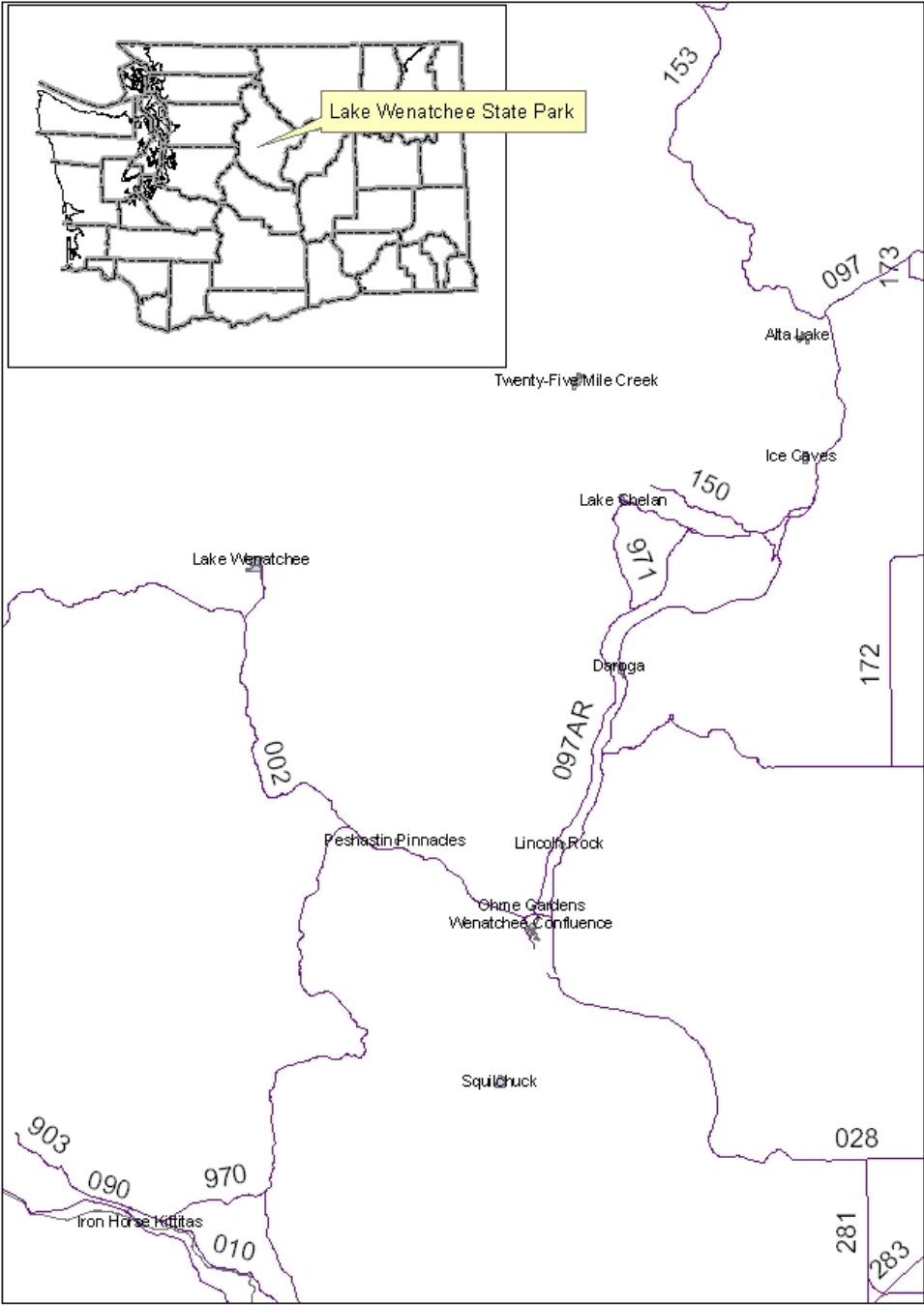
**LAKE WENATCHEE STATE PARK**  
**Classification and Management Planning (CAMP) Project**  
**Preliminary Recommendations**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Figure 1: Location and vicinity map .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>What you will find in this document .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Overview of the planning process.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Lake Wenatchee State Park Management Objectives .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Long-term boundary.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Figure 2: Long-term boundary and affected properties .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Land classification.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Figure 3: Long-term boundary and land classification.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Park Management Issues .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Please let us know what you think! .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Next steps and final decision making .....</b>	<b>17</b>

**Figure 1: Lake Wenatchee State Park  
Location and Vicinity Map**





## **Introduction**

At its January, 2003 meeting, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) adopted the Centennial 2013 Vision that seeks to create a park system that will be “premier destinations of uncommon quality”. To achieve that goal, the Commission has adopted the Centennial 2013 Plan. This plan includes a series of commitments, including a stewardship commitment that states as a goal that “All 120 parks have land-use plans supported by the public and Commission”.

The preliminary staff recommendations in this document represent the third stage in a four-stage process to develop a Classification and Management Planning (CAMP) project for Lake Wenatchee State Park. It represents State Parks’ planning team’s best effort to incorporate the hopes and concerns of customers and community members into a long-term plan that balances the park’s natural and cultural treasures while also supporting a wide variety of recreational opportunities. The CAMP project for Lake Wenatchee State Park involves classifying park lands, developing long-term park boundaries, and identifying resource management issues (and general approaches for addressing them) through careful analysis of resource inventories, technical information, and an issue-based public planning process. Stakeholders and staff have identified the specific issues facing the park, and suggested management approaches designed to resolve these issues during a series of public planning workshops and email correspondence.

Further discussion of the planning process may be found below. Please note, however, that there have been two public workshops held already and several documents posted on the State Parks’ planning webpage for comment. In the next stage, the planning team will consider additional public input and make a final staff recommendation to the Commission at its meeting on November 30, 2006.

## What you will find in this document

This document contains State Parks staff's preliminary recommendations. In other words, this is what the planning team would recommend at this stage of the process. Preliminary staff recommendations are based on available information. Staff recommendations can still change depending upon what the planning team hears from the community and customers.

The document is arranged in the following order:

- Overview of the planning process
- Management objectives
- Discussion of the long-term park boundary
- Land classification
- Park management issues

Additional information on previous planning stages can be found at the Lake Wenatchee project web site at <http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/lkwen/> and documents are available in hard copy format upon request.

## Overview of the planning process

The planning process began in November 2005 with the selection of the core planning team comprised of the Lake Wenatchee State Park Manager and primary assistant, Eastern Region staff, and Headquarters planning staff. The process continued with a staff scoping meeting to gather initial planning information and identify management issues. Public workshops were then scheduled to encourage our stakeholders to share their vision of what Lake Wenatchee State Park should become and to actively participate in the future plans for the park. Public participation and input was also encouraged by sending approximately 2300 emails to park neighbors, local businesses, and people who had reserved campsites at the park in the last two years (the mailing list was later narrowed down to the 200 people who responded to the initial contact). Numerous documents, public comments, and meeting notices were posted on the park planning webpage, and follow-up emails were sent each time a new document was posted. Most of the input has come via email- public workshops have been sparsely attended. The planning process will end when the Commission provides its policy direction.

The planning process was divided into four "stages":

*Stage 1: Identify hopes and concerns of the community and park customers.*

The planning team held a public workshop on December 14, 2005 at the Leavenworth City Hall to gather issues and concerns from the public. The team advertised the meeting in several local newspapers and radio stations (and in the initial 2300 emails). Park neighbors and local legislators also received separate invitations. The issues raised by the public at the meeting and from emails were posted on the State Parks' planning webpage. The planning team then met to consider each issue, and a revised issues document, which included comments from the planning team, was posted on the webpage. A planning process update was also sent out to everyone on the revised email (and mail) list.



Public meeting

*Stage 2: Explore alternative approaches to address community and customer issues.*

To address the issues raised by community and state park customers in the first stage, the planning team framed each issue in two alternative approaches. Then, a second public meeting was held on March 21, 2006 at Leavenworth City Hall to give the public a chance to tell us which approach (or combination of approaches) they favor. The public meeting was again advertised in all local newspapers, on several radio stations, and by email invitations. Comments from the meeting were posted on the webpage. A document outlining the alternative approaches to the issues was also posted on the webpage with comments encouraged until April 28, and a second planning process update was emailed on April 17. Staff also met with park neighbors (Kahler Glen golf course and U.S. Forest Service) that could potentially be affected by the proposed long-term boundary.

*Stage 3: Prepare preliminary recommendations to address issues.*

The planning team considered the comments received to date, and developed preliminary staff recommendations based on the best available information. Before going to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission for its decision, staff will share its preliminary recommendations with the public. The planning team decided that posting the recommendations on the webpage will be a much more effective way to generate comments, since our two previous public meetings have only attracted 5-7 people each.

*Stage 4: Propose final recommendations for formal agency and Commission adoption.*

After hearing from the public, the planning team will make its final recommendations to the Commission. The Commission is a group of seven citizens appointed by the Governor to give policy direction concerning Washington's state parks. That Commission meeting also will be open to the public and will occur in Stevenson, Washington on November 30, 2006. The public may testify for or against staff recommendations. If people cannot attend the meeting, there is a procedure for providing comments to the Commission.

After the Commission gives policy direction, then staff can begin to implement the plan. In the future, park and region staff, through open houses and other public forums, will solicit stakeholder comments on the progress made towards addressing the issues presented and to assist staff in the identification of new emerging issues. The intent is to keep this document viable and up-to-date with changing and emerging issues that affect park management.

# Lake Wenatchee State Park Management Objectives

## **Relationship to Adjacent Property Owners and the Community:**

- Recognize the park's importance in the economic and social life of the community and actively participate in local economic development and community programs.
- Be aware of the potential positive and/or negative impacts on adjacent property owners of continued park development and management. All actions should focus on a "good neighbor" policy of park management.

## **Recreation:**

- Provide access to a variety of water-based activities, including swimming and boating.
- Develop and maintain a variety of year-round trails and trail-related recreation opportunities, focused on hiking, biking, equestrian riding, and cross-country skiing (groomed and non-groomed), but also provide opportunities for sledding, snowshoeing, tubing and other winter recreational activities.
- Offer affordable summer and winter overnight accommodations that are comfortable and rustic so visitors have a quality outdoor recreational experience.

## **Financial Strategy:**

- Develop programs and facilities that will encourage camping customers to stay for a three day experience with an seasonal goal of 60-70% average campground occupancy.
- Seek corporate and nonprofit partners that will help create the facilities and provide the services requested by the community and state park customers.

## **Natural Resources:**

- Protect, preserve, and interpret natural resources of the park, including rare, fragile and/or high quality examples of vegetative communities, associations and species; important fish and wildlife corridors and habitat areas.
- Preserve natural resources by using sustainable products (e.g. cleaning products and vehicles) when possible.
- Use integrated pest management practices to control noxious weeds and other pests in the park area.

*(Continued on other side)*

## Lake Wenatchee State Park Management Objectives (Continued)

### **Cultural Resources:**

- Protect, preserve, and appropriately interpret the key cultural resources of the park.

### **Park Boundary:**

- Identify a long-term boundary and property management plan that establishes priorities for land acquisition, surplus, easements, and a variety of cooperative management approaches with nearby resource managers and park neighbors so that park visitors may have a quality experience.

### **Park Facilities:**

- Draft an achievable plan for ongoing maintenance of the existing park facilities and development of the proposed facilities.

### **Customer Service**

- Provide adequate staffing so that customers are satisfied with the level of public service.





## Long-Term Boundary

Delineation of long-term park boundaries is a relatively new and often misunderstood aspect of park planning. In short, the purpose of a long-term boundary is to take a big picture look at what lands, independent of ownership, might advance the conservation and recreation mission of the park. This process not only considers whether an adjoining property would make a suitable addition, but also considers whether agency-owned property should be retained or might appropriately be considered surplus to park needs. Including a privately owned property in a long-term boundary does not necessarily mean the agency wants to purchase it. It simply means that it would be in the park's best interest if the property were managed/maintained in a condition that complements development and operation of the park. Any of the following possibilities could apply:

The agency might:

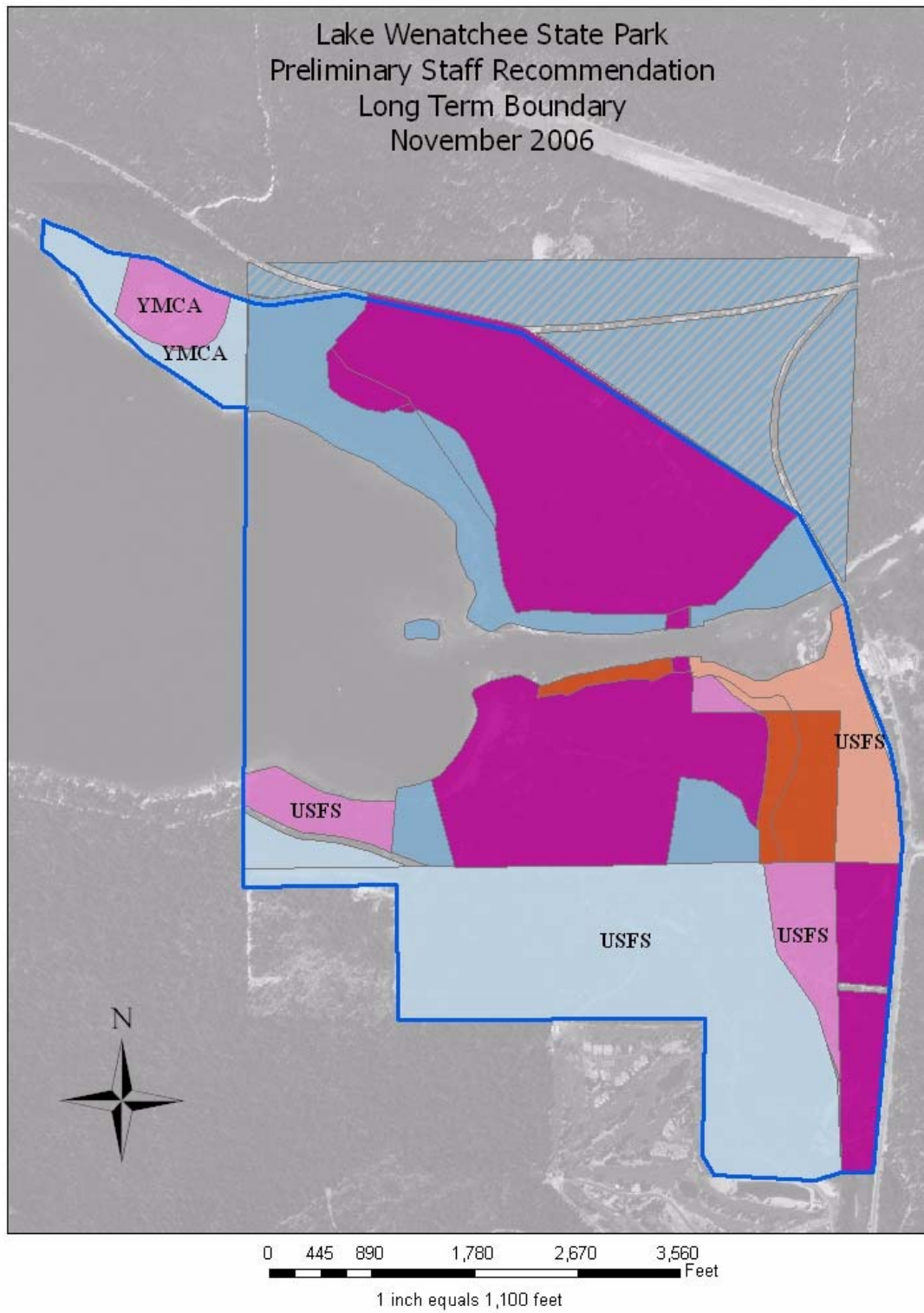
- Seek to formalize an agreement with an adjacent property owner to advance a shared property management goal
- Solicit a conservation easement from an adjacent property owner to protect certain natural or cultural features
- Readily accept a donation of all or part of a private property
- Consider exchanging agency-owned property for a private property
- Consider purchase of a private property in fee

Some of the long-term boundary issues identified by the planning team and the public that will be addressed in this plan include:

- Expansion of the ski and mountain bike trail network
- Expansion of recreational opportunities and consistency of operations (assuming operation of Nason Creek campground).
- Considering acquisition of the administrative area in the southwest corner of the park that State Parks leases from the Forest Service (where residence #4 and #5 and the storage garage are located).

Figure 2 (next page) delineates the proposed long-term boundary for Lake Wenatchee State Park.

**Figure 2: Long-term boundary and affected properties**



## Land classification

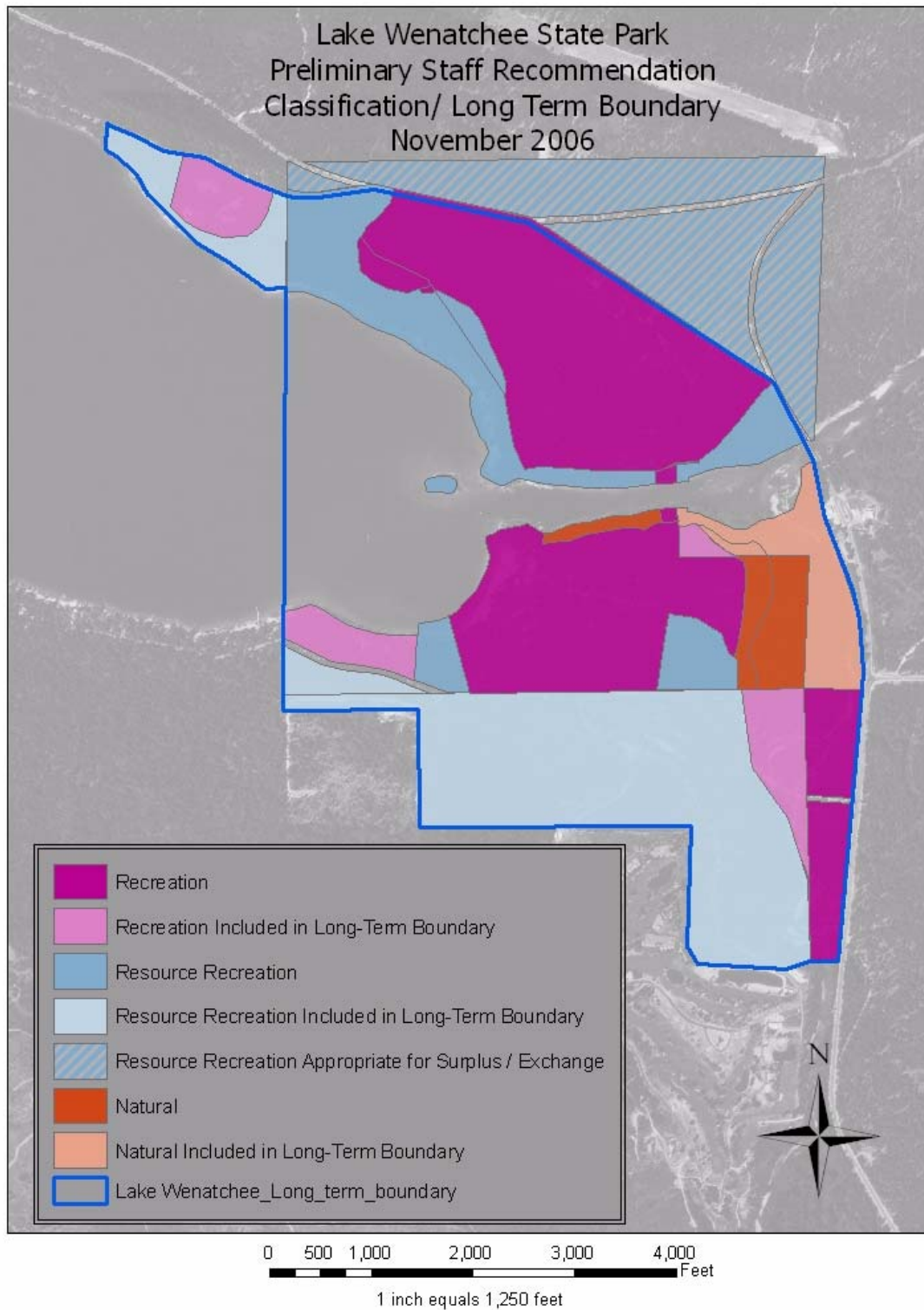
Within the long-term boundary, staff has developed recommendations for classifications. Land classification is like internal zoning for the park. Land classification is regulated by WAC 352-16-020, which reads:

State Park areas are of state-wide natural, cultural, and/or recreational significance and/or outstanding scenic beauty. They provide varied facilities serving low-intensity, medium intensity, and high intensity outdoor recreation activities, areas reserved for preservation, scientific research, education, public assembly, and/or environmental interpretation, and support facilities. They may be classified in whole or part as follows:

- (1) Recreational areas are suited and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use, conference, cultural and/or educational centers, or other uses serving large numbers of people.
- (2) Resource recreation areas are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use.
- (3) Natural areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological value while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses.
- (4) Heritage areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features, and traditional cultural properties, which are of statewide or national significance.
- (5) Natural forest areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses, and which contain:
  - (a) Old-growth forest communities that have developed for one hundred fifty years or longer and have the following structural characteristics: Large old-growth trees, large snags, large logs on land, and large logs in streams; or
  - (b) Mature forest communities that have developed for ninety years or longer; or
  - (c) Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.
- (6) Natural area preserves are designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are registered and committed as a natural area preserve through a cooperative agreement with an appropriate natural resource agency pursuant to chapter 79.70 RCW and chapter 332-60 WAC.

The preliminary staff recommendation for Lake Wenatchee State Park is that the park be classified as Recreational, Resource Recreation, Natural, and Resource Recreation Appropriate for Surplus/Exchange (see Figure 3- next page). There are also several properties included in the long-term boundary that are not currently owned by State Parks. The reasons for the inclusion of these properties are addressed in the Park Management Issues section of this plan.

**Figure 3: Long-term boundary and land classification**



## Park Management Issues

The tables below are a listing of park management issues identified through the public planning process for Lake Wenatchee State Park. This information will ultimately form the basis of the park's management plan, but should be considered preliminary at this time.

<b>Recreation Resources</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Preliminary Management Recommendations</b>
Expansion of ski and mountain bike trail network	<p>Attempt to secure a management agreement for extension of the park's cross-country ski trails through the YMCA property.</p> <p>Mountain bike and equestrian use are approved within the lands classified as Recreation and Resource Recreation. A trail plan will be developed (following the guidelines set forth in the State Park Non-Motorized Trails Goals and Policy 72-99-1) to designate uses on specific trails. Do not develop new trails exclusively for mountain bike use at this time, however, continue to encourage use of mountain bikes on existing trails.</p> <p>Explore the idea of expanding the groomed cross-country ski trail program from the current 25 kilometer trail network serving primarily beginning and intermediate skiers, to a larger network (including trails on adjacent private and public lands) serving a full range of skill levels. The first priority for expansion is approximately 23 km of trail in the Nason Ridge/Kahler Glen area (a grooming grant has been secured as of 8/06). Second priority is approximately 8-10 km of trail in the Chiwawa area. Explore other options to expand SnoPark facilities if and when demand dictates.</p>
Expansion of recreation opportunities and consistency of operations	<p>Consolidate ownership of Nason Creek campground and assume operation.</p> <p>Work with adjacent landowners to gain support for an additional Sno-park in the Butcher Creek area to provide better access to the Nason Ridge ski trail.</p>
Expansion of visitor services	<p>Explore the possibility of operating a joint State Parks/US Forest Service visitor center at a location to be determined.</p> <p>Add more visitor services: interpretive programs, staff-lead hikes, stewardship and sustainability demonstration programs, and law enforcement patrols. Develop "canned" programs for presentation to schools, YMCA campers, and local groups.</p>
Improvement of winter recreation visitor information programs	<p>Develop improved communication of current snow conditions and trail information for the public. Consider using an email distribution list, links from the agency website, the park's answering machine, and/or a community website/blog.</p>
Expansion of winter recreation facilities	<p>Support a partnership to add a series of warming huts on the Nason Ridge ski trail.</p>

	Construct new shelter/warming hut facility in north beach area.
Connectivity between north and south park	Construct a trail connection between north and south park areas, which may include a pedestrian bridge (or, if affordable, a bridge large enough to allow maintenance vehicle/sno-cat use) across the Wenatchee River to provide connection between north and south park (hiking, skiing, day-use access, etc.). At present, visitors and staff have to travel between the two sections of the park via Highway 207.
Adding more day-use facilities	Replace existing small kitchen shelter in south day-use area with larger multi-use facility designed to support year-round recreational use.
Adding group facilities	Construct new all-season group camp, possibly including cabins, at a location to be determined. One option might be to expand the present group camp.
Improve roads, ADA sites, trail surfaces, and other park infrastructure	<p>Finish road paving, including south campground and ADA sites.</p> <p>Add ADA-approved surface to trails that go from ADA sites to the comfort stations. At present, campsite #6 could be converted into an ADA site with an ADA- approved route of travel constructed from that campsite to the bathhouse. When comfort stations #9 and #10 are replaced (see below), identify campsites in the area to be converted to ADA sites.</p> <p>Replace playground equipment in north campground if demand justifies expense.</p> <p>Replace #9 and #10 comfort stations.</p> <p>Upgrade comfort stations where possible: showers, sinks, towel racks, shelves, and lighting.</p> <p>Install defined tent pads to reduce damage to vegetation and soil compaction. Include some larger pads to allow for large family tents. Add parking barriers.</p>
Add overnight accommodations- cabins	Construct up to approximately 12 cabins. Exact number of cabins and location to be determined.
Recreational design-campground improvements	<p>Redesign and renovate south campground (roadway width, site length and width, and add a limited number of water and power hookups) to accommodate and encourage more use by large RV's.</p> <p>At present time, maintain existing campground (instead of constructing new campground), but consider constructing new campground when/if demand dictates. Explore ways of minimizing damage to campground vegetation, such as the possibility of modifying the WAC to allow park staff to lower the maximum number of people allowed per campsite, design constraints (fencing around campsites, etc.) and revegetation projects.</p>

	<p>If Nason Creek campground is acquired, upgrade facilities, including adding hookups and showers.</p> <p>Upgrade existing and add ADA campsites to meet ADA standards where needed.</p> <p>Add walk-in campsites if demand dictates.</p> <p>Establish and/or retain as much vegetative screening as possible between campsites for privacy.</p> <p>Consider ways to mitigate environmental damage caused by adding sewer hookups to campsites. If a satisfactory solution is not found, do not add sewer hookups.</p> <p>Add electricity and water hookups to appropriate ADA sites or consider converting some hookup sites to ADA sites. Some ADA sites will still be standard sites.</p>
Recreation facilities- connectivity with regional trail system	Support the development of a regional trail system connecting the park with the proposed Wenatchee to Leavenworth trail.
Recreation facilities- boating services improvements	Expand concession services to include non-motorized boat rentals, and a north side concession (if feasible).
Recreation facilities- improve visitor information and facilities	<p>Construct more information boards or kiosks to dispense interpretive, recreation, and orientation information.</p> <p>Work with WSDOT to improve park signage on Highway 2 at Coles Corner.</p> <p>Limit new development- keep character of the park as natural as possible.</p>
Recreation facilities- improving existing trails	<p>Construct benches to place along some trails.</p> <p>Add and/or improve trail signage.</p> <p>Use wood chips (when available) to improve trail surfaces- for dust control, to fill low spots, to protect tree roots, and to improve trail appearance.</p>

Natural Resources	
Issue	Preliminary Management Recommendations
Protection of wetlands	<p>Any new trails or development will comply with state and federal regulations and policies, including those pertaining to wetlands.</p> <p>Minimize impacts on wetlands by locating trail systems and other recreation activities and facilities away from critical areas and explore opportunities to enhance wetland habitat.</p>

Protection of animal communities	Any new trails or development will comply with state and federal regulations and policies, including those pertaining to protection of wildlife, especially protection of threatened or endangered species. Minimize impacts on habitat by locating trail systems and other recreation activities and facilities away from critical areas and explore opportunities to enhance habitat (such as installing Osprey poles).
Forest health/forest fuels reduction	Continue forest fuels reduction/vegetation management program. In the long term, execute program to gradually return the forest environment to a more pre-fire suppression condition. Provide fire safety education to park visitors as part of the park's interpretive program.
Protection of adjacent property that is consistent with park management objectives	Preserve the view-shed from the south campground and protect the natural beauty of the area surrounding the Nason Ridge area trails by working with the Forest Service to avoid intense development on Forest Service property south of Cedar Brae Road. Consider possible use of management agreements, conservation easements, purchase of development rights, or purchase of property as options to accomplish this purpose.

<b>Cultural Resources</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Preliminary Management Recommendation</b>
Protection of Native American cultural and archaeological sites	Conduct archaeological surveys prior to any development activities. Continue to consult with tribes that may have an interest in the archaeological and cultural resources in the state park. State Parks staff will follow the direction contained in the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Cultural Resources Policy 12-98-1.

<b>Administration</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Preliminary Management Recommendation</b>
Protection of adjacent property that is consistent with park management objectives	Acquire the property that residence #4 and #5 is located on (for administrative area and storage facilities) by purchase or trade with the Forest Service.



## Please let us know what you think!

There have been lots of ideas generated during the planning process, and staff feels confident that they have been listening to what the community and customers want at Lake Wenatchee State Park. Be assured that every idea brought forth during the process was carefully considered by the planning team- whether it ended up being incorporated in the Preliminary Recommendations or not.

We are now getting close to the time when the team must make its recommendations to the Commission, based on the best available information. This document is the **preliminary** recommendations. Your comments are still most welcome and will be considered when we draft the **final** recommendations.

There are several ways for you to give us your thoughts or to get more information. Contact Bruce Beyerl:

-by mail: 2201 N. Duncan Dr., Wenatchee, WA 98801

-by email: [lake.wenatchee.planning@parks.wa.gov](mailto:lake.wenatchee.planning@parks.wa.gov).

-by telephone: 509-663-9730

You may also visit the website: <http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/lkwen>.

## Next steps and final decision making

Staff intends to present final recommendations for final consideration and action by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission at its scheduled November 30, 2006 meeting in Stevenson, Washington. State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) environmental review forms an integral part of the planning process and is also available for public comment upon request.

We hope that you find this process interesting and that you choose to remain actively involved in planning for Lake Wenatchee State Park and the implementation of the plan. With your help, we can hand this park down to our grandchildren as a lasting legacy and a treasure of which we can all be proud.

